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DECEMBER 27, 1873.

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to the PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY will please notice, on their printed address, the date indi-cating the expiration of their subscription, and notify us of any error made in printing.

No bills will hereafter be sent except to houses with whom we have an open account. If remittance is not made within a month after expiration, it will be understood that the paper is to be discontinued.

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The postage on the WEEKLY, which, if paid in advance, is 5 cents per quarter, or 20 cents per annum, must be paid by subscribers at their own post-office.

NOTES IN SEASON.

THE use of New Year's Cards is becoming more popular every year, and manufacturers are ready The latest samto supply the growing demand. ples received come from A. M. Collins, Son & Co., Phila., and favorably compare with those mentioned before in this paper.

THE Christmas volumes have been selling very well, though chiefly to city buyers. Houghton report a second edition of Mrs. Clement's art book in the press, and Sheldon & Co. have nearly exhausted their edition of "Heaven in Song." Dodd & Mead were quite run out of the "Pioneers and Patriots" series.

WE learn that Carleton's "Farm Ballads," as published by the Harpers, have sold to the extent Not bad for a bad year! It is of 22,000 copies. in proof that good books are sure of sale at any

THE seventh thousand of "What Can She Do?" is in the press at Dodd & Mead's.

THE hurry of selling causes a lull in publishing news, so that our notes and news columns are bare at this season. A good many books of interest are in hand, however, for announcement after the first of January.

RICHIE'S "Dictionary of Antiquities" is nearly

ready at the Appletons, in a neat 12mo, with nearly 2,000 illustrations from ancient sources. It promises to be the best cheap classical manual in the market, being replete with information, arranged alphabetically. St. George Mivart's work on "Man and Apes" is also almost ready. Though brief, it is exhaustive of the subject, and it is illustrated with more varieties of apes than most people have any idea exist.

MESSRS. Sheldon & Co. have just closed a contract of publication with ex-Secretary Welles, for a work of the utmost importance, which he has in an advanced stage of preparation. For months he has been importuned by public men and the press to put on record his knowledge of the inside history of the great historic administration of Lincoln, and his Galaxy articles only added fuel to the flame of the general desire to hear from him. therefore set himself to the preparation of a work on "Seward and Lincoln," which will make a 12mo of some three or four hundred pages. While it covers partly the same ground as the now famous Galaxy papers, it is quite a distinct work. The points of these papers will be strengthened by the citation of official records, and the scope of the book will also be much wider. The ex-Secretary's strength is in his trenchant handling of facts, which he lets speak for themselves-the strongest kind of historical writing. It should be understood that the impres ion that these comparisons to Mr. Seward's disadvantage are inspired by personal feeling is altogether a mistake. Mr. Welles and Mr. Seward were warm personal friends, and the key to these articles is to be found simply in Mr. Welles' feeling of the mistaken attitude of Mr. Adams. He looks upon Mr. Lincoln as a colossal figure, who acted always his great self, and permitted no one but himself to be President, though always glad and grateful for suggestions and counsel.

THE Riverside Bulletin announces its early demise in the following lugubrious terms:

This is a world of change. The Riverside Bulletin, which has enjoyed a growing popularity for the past three vears, and having great capacity for future growth—being able indeed to double is circulation at any given time—has been so dout to Every Salurday, and will hereafter appear as a special department in that weekly. By this means our monthly issues will be more frequent, and having more space at command we shall be able to expand our paragraphs. having been much cramped in the past and shall endeavor to make the Bulletin, as it appears in Every Saturday, more distinctly than ever a record of publications and spectator in literary than ever a record of publications and spectator in literary matters. Those subscribers to the Bulletin who have paid their ten cents, will receive *Every Saturday* for a year free, on forwarding an additional \$4.90.

HERE is a Herald correspondent's picture of French Publishing:

French Publishing:

It needs a sale of at least 10,000 copies to cover the expenses of a book published at the usual French price of three francs, and to leave anything like an acceptable margin of profits to the publisher and the author. Even with a sale of 10,000, however, the author can expect at most £300, and such a sum is not worth the attention of a first-rate writer, who, in the six months' time required to produce a £300 novel, might earn £1,000 or £1,200 in journalism, or double and treble that amount in succes-ful stage plays. So most French authors of merit turn playwrights or newspaper editors, and only venture on a novel when they feel assured of some good sale, such as 30,000, 50,000, or even 100,000 copies. Nevertheless, there are authors who, by publishing their novels first as serials in daily papers, then in volume form, and by writing at steam pace three or four novels in the course of a twelvemonth, manage to secure something like a decent income. Some of these have a knack for selecting crude subjects and dishing them up with a garnist of enticing spice; others may be them up with a garnist of enticing spice; others may be classed among the few French novelists who write with propriety in order to be read by ladies. Again, there are contain authors who t row off a novel from time to time without much looking to profits, but simply because they have something to

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BOOKS JUST PUBLISHED.

The Prices in this List are for cloth lettered, unless otherwise indicated. Imported Books are marked with an asterisk; Authors' and Subscription Books, or Books published at net prices, with two asterisks.

Alger.—Bound to Rise; or, How Harry Wa'ton rose in the World. By Horatio Alger, Jr. (Luck and Pluck Series.) 16°. \$1.50	By Rev. F. D. Maurice. Edited, with a Preface, by T. Hughes, M. P. 12°, pp. 389. \$2.50Macmillan. Mt. Desert in 1873. Portrayed by Crayon and Quill. Obt. folio. \$3
pp. 80. Pap 50 c	Phillips Metrical Tune Book. By Philip Phill ps. 12.
By N. S. Dodge. Illustr. Sq. 16°, pp. 176. \$1.50. Lee & S.	pp. 156. \$1
Douai.—The Rational Third Reader. For Instruction in the Laws of Pronunciation, Orthography, Grammar, and Elocution. By Dr. A. Douai. 12°, pp. 224. Bds. 80c Steiger.	inello. Transl. from the French. 12°. \$2. Cunningham. Reffelt.—Exempelbuch für den Unterricht im Rechnen. Zwölstes Hest. By Hermann Reffelt. 12°, pp. 71. Bds. 35 c
Drew.—Our Currency. What it Is, and What it should Be. By John G. Drew. 8°, pp. 24. Pap. 15 c Wells.	- The Third Book of Arithmetic. Part 1. 12°, pp. 60. Bds. 25 c.; -Same. Parts 2 and 3. Ea. 12°, pp. 71. Bds. ea. 30 c
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*Farrar.—The Silence and the Voices of God, with other Sermons. By Frederick W. Farrar, D.D., F.R.S 12°, pp. 196. \$1.75	Chase, etc. 12. \$1.25
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Griswold — Apple Biossoms. By Hattie Tyng Griswold. 12°, pp. 232. \$1.50	Upham.—Star of our Lord; or, Christ Jesus, King of all Worlds, both of Time and Space. With Thoughts on In-
Guernsey.—Mechanics' Lien Laws for New York City, and the Counties of Kings and Queens, Statutes, Digests and Commentaries, with numerous Forms. By R. S. Guernsey. 8°, pp. 228. Shp. \$4.50	spiration and the Astronomic Doubt as to Christianity. By Francis W. Upham. 12°, pp. 370. \$1.75Nelson & P. Wa'son.—A Course in Descriptive Geometry. For the Use of Colleges and Scientific Schools. With an Appen-
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The Gates of Praver. A book of Private Devotion By J. R. Macduff, D.D.

The Relation of the Kingdom to the World. By Dr. Dykes.

The Christ of God. By Horatius Bonar, D.D.

The Word of Life. By Rev. Chas. J. Brown.

Between the Cliffs. By Emma Marshall.

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Manual of the Constitution of the United States. Designed for the Instruction of American Youth in the Duties, Obligations, and Rights of Citizenship. By Israel Ward Andrews, D.D., President of Marietta College. 12°, pp. 500. (Jan.)

Publishers' First Announcements.

From the New York Commercial Advertiser for the two Weeks ending December 23.

DEC.

DEC. 10.

Henry Holt & Co.:—Philip Leigh.—Her Sister Norah.
—Castle Daly.—Child's History of Jerusalem.—A Long Summer's Day.—Central Asia, by Eugene Schuyler.—
A History of Japan.—In the Camargue.—Richard Wagner and the Music of the Future.—(By arrangement with the representatives of the author's) Literary Remains of Eminuel Deutsch, author of the celebrated monograph on the Tahund.—A volume of Posthumous Essays, by John Stuart Mill. Stuart Mill.

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Dec. 20.
Scribner, Armstrong & Co:-Missions, by Max Mul-

Harper & Bros.:—Stately Homes of England.—Life of Gregory VII.—In the Camargue.—Mike How.—The Old Dragoon.—Alaston.—Tr.vanion Hall.—Fairy Fenella.—My Laurels.—Thorpe Regis.—Contemporary English My Laurels. — Thorpe Regis. — Contemporary English Psychology.—The Expanse of Heaven.—Lord Harry Bellair.—Patricia Kemball.—The Adulterations of Food, with Short Processes for their Detection.—Maoria.—Mistress Judith.—Frank Sinelair's Wife.—Ashanti and the Gold Coast.—Colonel Dacre.

Henry Holt & Co.:-Vignettes in Rhyme, and Vers de Société, by Austin Dobson.

The End of the Season.

THE Christmas trade has been wholesomely brisk, after all the croaking, and has fully borne out our prophecies. Some houses, indeed, report better sales than last year, and all seem well satisfied that a bad season has closed so well. We take advantage of the opportunity, when the experiences of these difficulties are fresh in the minds of the trade, to reiterate what we have before said, that there is great need of more foresight in the book trade. The lack of it has been shown dis-

astrously this year, both among publishers and retail dealers. The former have found themselves crowded with late books at a time when actual publishing, except for new editions of current books, should be quite off their minds, and their whole attention concentrated on supplying the demand for books issued early enough in the season to be put fairly before the trade; while the latter, by an over exercise of caution, have lost a great part of their holiday trade. The new holiday books, we find, have sold almost entirely about the great cities, and the country dealers

held back until a day or two before Christmas, when orders came crowding in by telegraph upon all our leading publishers, quite beyond the possibility of a supply at that late hour. Even when the goods were on hand, they could not be shipped. The publishers' difficulty, in most cases, seems to have been in underestimating the time wasted by authors in correcting proofs. We trust the experience of this year may be heeded next; and among the good resolutions of the New Year, let the trade make up its mind hereafter to be on time. The first of December is late enough to issue any books for holiday sale, provided they were properly announced beforehand, and retailers should carefully examine their stock with the view to making up deficiencies, and calculate their market for the sale of new and fine books as early as possible It can readily be estimated how much has been lost to the trade this year by thoughtless or timid procrastination.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A HANDBOOK OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, by F. T. Roberts, M.D. (Lindsay & Blakiston.) This work is chiefly intended for the use of students, its object being to present in one volume such information regarding the principles and practice of medicine as shall be sufficient not only to enable them to prepare for the various examinations which they have to undergo, but also to guide them in acquiring that clinical knowledge necessary to fit them for assuming the active duties of their profession. It is hoped also that it will be found of use by those already busily engaged in general practice. Standard authorities, as well as current literature, have been consulted in compiling it, while the author has incorporated the results of his own long and varied practice. Svo, cloth, \$5.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE, and other Poems, by F. M. Ray. (Dresser, McLellan & Co.) The subjects of the "other poems" are varied. We give a few of the titles: "Caste." "On Loch Katrine," "Evening in the Pays de Vaud," "Story of a Dewdrop," "Rest," etc. Embraced in the little volume are also a few translations of Heine and Uhland, and four memorial sonnets. The little poems are not devoid of merit, though they betray the hand of a novice. 16mo, cloth, 75 cent.

THE ARGUMENT OF THE BOOK OF JOB UNFOLDED, by William Henry Grant. (Carter & Bros.) The title of this work explains its design. The author says in his preface that "its aim is simply to set forth the general drift of the Book of Job, to exhibit its plan and structure, and trace the course of thought from first to last by showing the part taken by each of the actors, the purport of their several speeches, and the bearing of each portion of the book upon the common theme of the whole." 12mo, cloth, \$1.75.

HISTORY OF THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO, by William H. Prescott. (J. B. Lippincott & Co.) We have received the first volume of the above work, to be completed in three volumes. It belongs to the new issue of Prescott's complete works which the Lippincotts are publishing, edited by John Foster Kirk, with the author's latest corrections and additions. It is beautifully gotten up. 12mo, cloth, \$2.25.

Essays on Political Economy, by M. Frederic Bastiat. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) This is the last issue of Putnam's Series of "Popular Manuals." The book comprises a number of essays on topics of public interest; their various titles are, "Capital and Interest," "That which is seen, and That which is not Seen," "Government," "What is Money?" and "The Law." 16mo, cloth, \$1.00.

THE NATIONAL WAGES TABLES, by Nelson Row. (Dick & Fitzgerald.) A most useful little book, compiled to save time and labor in making up pay-rolls. It shows at a glance the amount of wages, from half an hour to sixty hours, at \$1 to \$37 per week; also, from one quarter of a day to four weeks, at \$1 to \$37 per week. 16mo, boards, 50 cents. Also, from the same house, "Row's Ready Reckoner," the only complete book of the kind published, for the buying and selling of any kind of merchandise, giving fractional parts of a pound, yard, etc., from 1-4 to 1000, at any price from one cent to five dollars. 16mo, boards, 50 cents.

SEX IN EDUCATION; OR, A FAIR CHANCE FOR THE GIRLS, by Edward H. Clark. (Osgood & Co.) Dr. Clark, in this volume, throws out many new and striking views relative to the co-education of the sexes. As the little book has already been reviewed at length by our Boston correspondent in the WEEKLY of Oct. 25th, we will not enter again into its special merits. 16mo, cloth, \$1.25.

MISS FORRESTER, by Mrs. Edwards. (Sheldon & Co.) Although this is one of Mrs. Edwards' most carefully written novels, it is not one of her most agreeable, "Miss Forrester" is the "wickedest" and most repulsive heroine we can recall in the whole range of fiction, and seems to have been created to illustrate the Calvinistic doctrine of total depravity and predestination, as from her first appearance on the scene until the denonement, when she is fittingly and literally destroyed by fire, we fail to discover in her one redeeming quality, unless it be her great physical beauty, or her "splendid digestion" upon which the authoress continually dwells. Her life is one long series of crime, purposeless crime too, which only excites our disgust, as it has not the excuse of being instigated either by great love or great hate. The only moral to be deduced from the story is, that conscience is the result of a degenerate physical condition, and if the digestion is kept unimpaired one may murder one's grandmother and yet feel quite happy and comfortable. 8vo, cloth. \$1.75.

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, complete, (T. P. James.) As everybody knows, Charles Dickens left this story unfinished. Death, it seems however, only for a time interrupted his labors, as we are called upon to believe that the completion of the work is from the "spirit-pen of Charles Dickens through a medium." We must confess to not having had courage to attack the "medium's" work, being one of those "unbelieving, ignorant bigots," of whom the "spirit-pen" of dear Charles Dickens is made to write, that "our consolation is that they will be sufficiently punished for their obstinacy when they leave this world, where they now think themselves of such great importance, and learn for a certainty how different a world and life they are to enter upon." (!) We leave it to our readers to judge for themselves if the spirit land has had a beneficial effect upon Charles Dickens from a literary point of view. 8vo, cloth, \$2.00.

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THE PHYSICIAN'S HAND-BOOK for 1874, by William and Albert Elmer, M.D. (W.A. Townsend.) A very neatly gotten up and most useful little manual. It embraces in a remarkably small compass a surprising number of things. The table of contents alone occupies a page. We regret want of space will not permit us to quote it all—we can only give a few of what seems to us its chief features, viz.: "Classification of Diseases," "Poisons and their Antidotes," "Medicinal Weights and Measures," "Materia Medica," "Record of Practice." Under this last heading are a number of divisions and blanks, by which a physician may make a complete record of his practice, such as commencement and termination of treatment, prescriptions employed, date of visits, amount of bill, cash received, etc., etc. Morocco, pocket, with tucks, \$1.75.

A STOUT HEART; or, The Student from Over the Sea, by Elijah Kellogg. (Lee & Shepard.) The sixth and last volume of the "Whispering Pine Series." The story is not connected at all with the preceding stories of the series; it relates the life of a young Scotch boy—James Macgregor—who is born in ignorance and poverty, his sole inheritance being an uncontrollable temper. His struggle to obtain an education, and his endeavors to conquer himself, are the main features of the story. Illustrated 16mo, cloth, \$1.25.

LITERARY AND TRADE NEWS.

THE many friends of Mr. H. M. Reed, of George Routledge & Sons, will be glad to learn that he is convalescent from the attack which arrested his usual tour at Columbus, Ohio, and is now about their store again, and rapidly regaining his old vigor and energy.

"THE Way We Live Now" is the title of Anthony Trollope's new novel. It is to be printed in England in twenty monthly parts; Old and New commences it on this side in its January issue. There are some very strong literary portraits in the first installment.

MR. Welford writes from London to the Bookbuyer: "Though a short and sharp monetary crisis has undoubtedly prevailed here, it has had little observable effect on the production of books. In an old country like England the number of families whose income is derived from invested property all over the world, and whose means are therefore little subject to fluctuation, is immense; and, on the other hand, people who live on active capital are much more inclined to spend money when it is bringing in nine or ten per cent. instead of two or three."

WITH the number for October last the publication of Bibliophile Français: Gazette Illustrée des Amateurs de Livres, d'Estampes, et de Haute Curiosité (Paris, Bachelin Deflorenne), was suspended. The complete set now forms seven volumes, illustrated with numerous portraits, woodcuts, and engravings of remarkable bindings printed in colors.

A HARTFORD paper has started the curious story that the *Atlantic* is to be converted to Methodism by the Messrs. Houghton. We need scarcely say that there is no foundation whatever for the story. The *Atlantic's* character will remain unchanged.

THE Riverside Bulletin (Hurd & Houghton) takes high ground in the matter of publishing:

A question is rightly asked of the manufacturer and publisher of books whether the time has not come when he may decline to put any more poor, thin-lived, unnecessary, and therefore luxurious books into the world. He is not a censor, yet he stands as a sort of gate-keeper to the path of literature; he may not be able to keep out what is in, but he may legitimately use his experience and judgment to prevent some from entering. There is a great deal of honest work put by publishers into what can by no possibility have any life. Let them cease to waste energy in keeping sparks alive, but turn the same force into the extension and invigoration of a really necessary literature. There are too many books published, a great many more than need be; luxuries in books that the nation cannot afford. It is not of the slightest consequence that a certain number of new books should be published in the United States next year. Books are not made for the benefit of the manufacturer, but it is of importance that a certain number of good books should be made and not made only but published, forced upon the attention of the people, and sold in large quantities. The person who writes, he who publishes, and he who buys an unnecessary, because feeble or ignoble book, is an offender against economic virtue and an obstacle in the way of sound literature; the poor book is not an obstacle, but every one who helps it on its way is.

An original serial story of American life, by Mrs. Mary Clemmer Ames, is to appear in *Every Saturday*.

THE Paris correspondent of the New York Herald says of French literature: that "never at any time within the past century have books been so few, nor on the whole so bad, in France, as they are at present."

A CONSTITUTIONAL History of Canada, from the conquest in 1760 to the passing of the constitutional act of 1791, by Mr. S. J. Watson, the librarian of the Legislative Assembly at Ontario, is about to be published. A THIRD series of "Essays, Scientific, Political, and Speculative," by Mr. Herbert Spencer, will hortly be published. The articles are: The Classification of the Sciences (with a postscript, replying to criticism); Reasons for Dissenting from the Philosophy of M. Comte; Laws in General; The Origin of Animal Worship; Specialized Administration, the Collective Wisdom; Political Fetichism; What is Electricity? The Constitution of the Sun; Mr. Martineau on Evolution; Replies to Criticisms. The Appletons will, of course, issue an American edition of the volume.

THE memoirs of the late King John of Saxony, edited by his former aide-de-camp, Herr von Witzleben, are announced for publication. In a letter of Dr. Rudolph Doehn to the Vienna Press it is stated that the royal translator had ready for publication at the time of his last visit some seventy poems, about one-fifth of them being from Bryant and other American writers, and the rest from the masterpieces of Southey, Shelley and Burns. The genial old man is represented to have been an industrious and systematic worker. His library was full of the rarest literary treasures, and was arranged and ornamented in quaint and curious fashion. His pens were of raven's quills, which he cut himself with an old pen-knife that a school-boy would scarce have owned. In his study of the English tongue, he read English pa-pers every morning and conversed with Englishmen and Americans at his receptions. He grew to be fond of the language after a time, and had so ordered the lyceums that every pupil reaching the second class was obliged to take up the study of it. Dr. Doehn thinks King John's translation of Dante will always remain a standard work,

A SERIES of letters by Mrs. Browning, to the author of "Orion," on literary and general topics, has been published for the first time in the December Contemporary.

A "HISTORY of Japan," has been compiled, chiefly from native and official sources, by Mr. F. O. Adams, formerly acting minister of Great Britain at Yeddo. The first volume brings the history down to the year 1864, and it is said that the work will be the most complete that has been issued.

BLANCHARD JERROLD is travelling about the continent at work on his promised "Life of Napoleon III." of which the first volume is to appear in January.

M. GUIZOT, who is stated to be in excellent health, will have another volume ready in January.

Boston thinks highly of Mr. Cranch's "Saturn." Rev. Chas. T. Brooks writes to the Advertiser that the poem is by no means fragmentary or unfinished, but "the most complete and carefully prepared poem Mr. Cranch has ever wrought out. And let me add that, in my opinion, it should go far to place him in the front rank of the poets of the future. . . . It is as if the spirit of Shelley, having become familiar with the latest discoveries and guesses of modern science and humanity, had dictated a second part of "Faust." It has yet to find a publisher.

THE British and Irish Press Guide for 1874—an improvement upon the London Press Directory, published by Frederick May and Sons in 1871—is among the list of forthcoming London publications.

THE memoir of the great Edinburgh publisher, | English book.

Archibald Constable, whose name, as the publisher of the Waverley novels, is associated for all time with that of Walter Scott, is one of the most attractive of recent English books, hardly less interesting than the autobiography of the Chambers. It is written by his son.

THE Christian Union puts it pretty strongly in the matter of indexes, but there is a good deal of truth in what it says: "We know of but one fault in the American edition of De Quincey; but that is a great fault, and appears to us all the more deplorable because it might have been so easily remedied. It has no index. To us it seems that no book deserves to be called a book which is without an index; and, if we were autocrat, we would have all such books burned by the common hangman, after he had first discharged the more immediate duties of his profession upon the persons responsible for such a high crime and misdemeanor. There are, indeed, some books which suggest the need of an index less than do others. But in no other books can a minute topical index be more needed than in these eleven volumes of the writings of Thomas De Quincey. . . Even now, as a separate publication, a minute and thorough index to De Quincey would be eagerly purchased by all who have his works, and would be a boon."

THE Imprimerie Nouvelle of Paris—an establishment founded and directed exclusively by working men—has just issued a series of vignettes, formed entirely by a combination of types and of curved and bent rules, which are far more graceful, and exhibit more of light and shade than the ordinary blocks.

LESLIE STEPHEN'S "Essays on Free-thinking and Plain-speaking," to be issued soon in England, includes papers on "Religion as a Fine Art," "Darwinism and Divinity," "Are We Christians?" and "Social Macadamization," with others.

OF a remarkable author, for whose introduction to them the American public have to thank Messrs. Henry Holt & Co., the Pall Mall Gazette says: "We are very careful how we use the word 'genius;' but we have no hesitation in saying of the author of 'A Pair of Blue Eyes' and 'Under the Greenwood Tree' that he is distinctly a man of genius; there is in these books more inborn strength, more inborn knowledge, more of that fine humor which is the mark and test of genius, than we are able to detect in any living English novelist of our acquaintance, one only excepted. And there are chapters in 'Under the Greenwood Tree' which rival the most admirable rustic pieces of George Eliot herself.

THE following statement is made on the authority of the Washington correspondent of the New York Herald: "Some years ago, when Dr. Lanman had stopped publishing his 'Dictionary of Congress,' he found that he had accumulated about 10,000 pages of autobiographical letters. After arranging them in a series of volumes he sold them to Jay Cooke, and when the business affairs of that gentleman became involved he received an offer from a library in England of \$5,000 for the whole collection. The offer was accepted, and the autographs will soon be sent to their destination."

COLLECTORS will be interested in "An Introduction to the Study and Collection of Ancient Prints," illustrated with frontispiece and fifty-nine monograms, by Dr. W. H. Willshire—a new English book.

It will be remembered that when Mr. Alex. Strahan withdrew from the firm that bore his name, it was made the agreement that the firm name of Strahan & Co. should be retained by the remaining partners for three years. That period having now elapsed, Mr. Strahan is free to resume the old style, and the other firm, who still publish Good Words and the Sunday Magazine, is now in the name of W. Fobister & Co.

ANTHONY TROLLOPE said in a recent lecture that novels are the sermons of the present day, or, at any rate, the sermons which are listened to with the most rapt attention. The novelist is a professor with many pupils, who gives, on the whole, lessons of honor, honesty, and unselfishness. Mr. Jas. T. Fields, in his Lowell course, said that "there never was a more auspicious time for a really great American novelist than now." Where is the man?

"MALCOLM," a new tale by George MacDonald will be commenced in the January number of Lippincott's Magazine. This tale was announced last year, but its publication was postponed on account of the severe illness of the author.

THE Messrs. Strahan have wearied of their obligations as Tennyson's publishers, finding the tax of a thousand guineas a quarter, copyright, a losing investment, and have thankfully turned over the burden to Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., who will hereafter be the middlemen between the Laureate and the people.

"ALL Around the World; including a Visit to Peking during the Marriage Ceremonies of the Emperor of China, and Visit to the Modocs in the Lava Beds during the War," is the informing title of an English work by William Simpson, which ought to have more than local interest.

THE FAIR GOD .- In "The Fair God" we have says the London Athenaum, we believe, the first work of General Lewis Wallace, known hitherto only as a dashing officer in the American war, treating in a solid fashion of the fall of the Aztec power of Montezumas at the hands of Her an We do not hesitate to say that "The Fair God" is one of the most powerful historical novels that we have ever read. It is a real pleasure to us to be able to write these words after the exposures which we have lately made of the absolute worthlessness of many much belauded American novels of the last six months. Our impression is that "The Fair God" must have taken General Wallace years to write. The elaboration here and there is almost painful. The opening, like that of most archæological novels, is dull; but the scene where, in the sunrise, Montezuma reads his fate; the dance scene, and the entry of the Spaniards to the capital, are drawn in a style of which we think few living writers capable; and the battles are Homeric in their grandeur. There is nothing, indeed, bad in General Wallace's book except his preface. Cortes and Guatamozin live, and the whole of the characters breathe the spirit of ancient Mexico. As a romantic treatment of the history of a beaten cause, "The Fair God" is equal to "Rienzi."

Duties on Books and Paper. From Perry's Price Current.

A PARLIAMENTARY Return has just been issued showing the rates of import duty levied in Europe and the United States on paper, stationery, and books. Printed books are admitted free into Russia, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Hamburg

Holland, Belgium, France, Austria, and Greece, Sweden and Portugal make a distinction between books printed in foreign languages and books printed in Swedish or Portuguese. Books in foreign languages are in both countries admitted free. Bibles in Swedish presented to the Swedish Bible Society, Swedish books re-imported at the desire of the author or of the publisher, and books printed in Swedish in Finland are admitted free into Sweden, but there is a duty of 19s. 11d. charged on the other kinds of books. Books in Portuguese are admitted free into Portugal when the author resides abroad. If the author resides in Portugal a duty of £1 3s. 6d. per cwt, is charged. A similar duty is charged on "reprints of Portuguese works twenty years old." These fine distinctions must cause considerable trouble to the Custom House authorities of Sweden and Portugal respectively. Spain levies duties on books in foreign languages, as well as on books in Spanish. There is, however, a considerable difference in the amount, the duty on the former being 4s. 3-4d., on the latter 16s. 3d. per cwt. Italy admits unbound books free, but inflicts the heavy charge of £2 8d. per cwt. on bound books. Bremen charges a "stamp or registration duty" on books at the rate of 5s. 9d. per £16 13s. 4d. Switzerland charges a small duty of 4 1-2d. per cwt. on books imported into that country. Turkey charges an ad valorem duty of 7-20 per cwt. on all books. The United States charge an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent. on all books. It thus appears that the only countries which charge a duty on all books imported into them are Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States. these we may add the town of Bremen. It is not a little strange that Turkey, which was once cited as the most barbarous country in the world, should appreciate the principles of free trade more highly than the United States, Mr. Bright's beau ideal of civilization. The 25 per cent ad valorem duty charged on all books imported into the United States is the fruitful source of that system of piracy of which English authors so bitterly complain. As for the English publishers, their best protection would be to start, as the firm of Routledge has done, a branch establishment in New York. It is an instructive illustration of the selfishness which lies at the root of the policy of the United States in arranging its tariff, that, while its duties on paper imported into the States reach the almost prohibitive tariff of 31 1-2 per cent. ad vaiorem, rags for the manufacture of paper in the States are admitted free. Writing paper is liable to duty in all European countries. The heaviest duty is charged by Russia, £3 18s. 8d. per cwt.; the lightest by Belgium, 1s. 7 1-2d. per cwt. Most European countries have an elaborate scale of charges for different kinds of paper. Portugal distinguishes no fewer than ten varieties; Russia, Spain, and Greece, eight. Pencils are heavily weighted with import duties in all European countries, and in the United States. In the United States the duty varies from 2s. 3-4d. per gross and 30 per cent. ad valorem, to 40 per cent. ad valorem. In Russia the duty is £5 18s. 2d. per cwt., and in Portugal £5 17s. 9d. per cwt. Ink is admitted free into Germany, Holland, and Greece. Printers' ink is admitted free into Portugal and Belgium. Light duties are charged upon ink in other European countries; but the United States charges 35 per cent, ad valorem. Italy and Austria admit quill pens free, while Greece charges an import duty of £2 16s. 8d. On steel pens Spain charges the heavy duty of £6 1s. 11d. per cwt. The duties in most other countries range from £1 to £2 per cwt.

"THE Struggle for National Education" is the title of a new work by John Morley, the editor of the Fortnightly Review.

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